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MORE ISLANDS

Is Uncle Sam falling a victim to the shopping habit? The United States Chamber of Commerce favors buying more islands in the West Indies. Now there is no doubt of the fascination of islands. They have great possibilities in the way of adventure (see "Robinson Crusoe"); and of real estate (see Manhattan); and of international complications (see Philippines).

One little fretful thought disturbs the romantic vision of a continent edged with our own ocean ornaments. With unmanned warships and unrecruited armies will it be any easier to achieve defense a few miles out at sea than at the shore of the mainland? What America appears to need is more attention to the nation's health of soul and to the development of a defensive force in the interior, rather than extensions of the periphery.

RUTHLESS WARFARE

"We stake everything on a swift victory!" cries Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg on February 1, 1917, forgetting, it would seem, the picture postal cards which were all ready printed at the beginning of the war and ready for the victorious German soldiers to mail home from Paris in September, 1914. "Our best method," he adds, "is a ruthless warfare," in answer to which dictum we ask, When was the German method anything but a ruthless warfare? Are they going to be more ruthless than at Louvain, or Aerschott, or Dinant, or Ypres, or Rheims, or on May 7, 1915? And, if so, how? Are they going to do anything more ruthless than the enslavement of the civilian population of Belgium and northern France? Or does the chancellor admit that these latter crimes are not war but merely atrocity?

WHAT ARE YOUR BRAINS WORTH?

The legal rate of interest on money has been fixed at 6 per cent. How much more than that is an individual entitled to make when he throws in the brain and body power necessary to develop an enterprise which frequently performs a public service, such, for instance, as that of a railroad.

The framers of the proposed Federal "excess profits" tax evaluate this human element at just 2 per cent on the monetary investment. They would place a penalty on the profits above 8 per cent of all corporations; and corporations must be resolved into their component individuals for the division of profits—or losses.

This is a curious declaration of the relative values of property and citizen under a form of government which makes much of belittling the dollar and exalting the individual. As an incidental paradox, it might be pointed out that while capital may be protected by mortgage under this system brain power must always protect itself.

How soon will it be a crime for a man to have any sense?

REVISING OUR STATUTES

The family of the late Admiral Dupont, whose statue stands in Dupont circle, are seeking legislation from Congress to remove the statue outside the District and substitute a memorial tablet. They ask only permission to do this; they will defray the expense. The memorial to be put in place of the statue will be submitted to the Fine Arts Commission for approval.

Whereupon Senator Norris of Nebraska objects on the ground that such permission might set a precedent for the substitution of other statues and lead to a constant change in the style of Capital statuary.

And why not, Senator? Fashions change in the art exhibitions of art galleries? Occasionally a Venus de Milo holds her own against the shifting tastes of time, but if there are any classics that adorn the "circles" of Washington, no artist has yet called attention to them. Washington's most notable bit of statuary is privately owned, and is hidden far away in Rock Creek Cemetery. Scores of visitors from out of the city go monthly to see the St. Gaudens piece, popularly misnamed "Grief," and their progress usually is not interrupted by the aesthetic delights of anything they see adorning our parks on the way out.

If the words of experts be not enough proof of the atrocious art, or lack of it, in most of our statues we have the testimony of Speaker Clark, who drawlingly opined in public recently that he didn't know much about art, but if the equestrian stat-

ues here bore any passing likeness to any horse he had ever seen—well, he was from Missouri, and he knew horses from his sixth year up. Whereupon he discoursed most illuminatingly on the faults of the chiseled horses' tails, the hanging of their manes, their trotting and pacing poses, and their anatomical originalities.

For goodness' and arts' sake, if anyone wishes to remove some of the statues, be they forgotten heroes on prehistoric animals, or frock-coated statesmen with hand in coat, and is willing to spend his own money to do it, let him! The substitutes, in most cases, could not be worse, and they might be better.

"THE ONE BRAVE THING"

The President has won the full support of the American people and the respect of the world by the brave and vigorous action which he has taken in response to Germany's insolent threat of a campaign of frightfulness at sea in which American ships and American citizens are to be included as victims.

Germany's high-handed proceeding left really no honorable alternative to the President or the people of the United States. Still the crisis was so momentous, the responsibility so great, of resolving upon a course which may involve the country in war, that it required no small degree of virtue and courage in Mr. Wilson to take the definite step. Realizing this, the general admiration for his resolve will be the more unbounded and the more deeply felt.

Now that a decision has been made and the rights of the nation asserted in the most emphatic way, every loyal American—and are there any others?—will array himself behind the President in enthusiastic support. We are one people, North, South, East, and West turning our faces unitedly toward the offender against our rights as a great world power.

There will be no faltering and no hanging back in pursuing the course of honor which the President has marked out.

A SACRIFICIAL PROTEST

Within the past few weeks we have been informed by enthusiastic devotees of various movements, reforms and uplift efforts, and there is no reason to suppose that we alone were preyed upon unduly, that for the sacrifice of a 10-cent cigar a day we could provide for the following things, set down more or less accurately from memory:

Send enough red flannels to tropical heathen children to carry them through an entire torrid season in becoming modesty.

Feed half a dozen starving women and children of a neutral nation whose territory was devastated by the benign Germany in her effort to extend her Kultur.

Help a group of serious thinkers who are trying to do something for uplifting the drama by building another theater in Washington.

Hasten the dawn of a prohibition era in these United States, so we would be compelled also to divert the prices of theatrical drinks per day to some worthy cause.

Beat the high cost of living, as represented in the monthly grocery bill, and sustain the equilibrium of domestic economy arrangements.

Now most of these are entirely worthy causes and the only wonder is that their promoters seem unable to set forth more original appeals.

The danger of the cigar a day illusion is that some men may so react from the era of self-abnegation that some fine day they will smoke a 10-cent cigar for each worthy cause they ever heard about, and the doctor's bill for the next few weeks will eat up all the contributions the w.c.'s ought to get for the rest of the year.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS

One form of social insurance already has stood the test of widespread experience. This is widows' pensions. Summarization of the operation of such a law is contained in a report of the Board of Child Welfare of New York, where a widows' pension measure became effective eighteen months ago.

In other States it was found that defective framing of laws led to an abuse of the provisions which caused heavy drains on treasuries. Women who had property and other resources were able to collect pensions. In New York the law was drawn with this fact in mind, and it was provided that only in cases where the children otherwise would have had to be cared for in institutions, were mothers to be allotted sums for their maintenance.

The report states that, with this saving clause, the expense for providing for these children under the infinitely better environment afforded by their own homes, there has been a saving as compared with what it would have cost to care for them in institutions.

The validity of this conclusion ap-

parently was accepted, for the board of estimate has appropriated \$1,250,000 for widows' pensions for 1917. This sum only seems large when it is compared with the enormous sums now spent by every city and State for the upkeep of its institutional homes for children.

THE FINAL SUSSEX NOTE

The resolution of the people of the United States not to tolerate any outrages committed by Germany against American citizens on the high seas was not limited in expression to President Wilson's warning delivered in April of last year, after the Sussex atrocity. That strong and positive declaration of intention was followed in the succeeding month by a still stronger and more positive statement of the American position.

This was contained in the brief note, signed by Secretary Lansing but attributed as to its origin and inspiration to President Wilson, in which the German communication yielding to our demands was acknowledged. The German government attempted to qualify its concession, to make it temporary, and conditional upon the Government of the United States forcing Great Britain to abandon her blockade of Germany.

The condition was repudiated by our State Department in words of ringing emphasis. In the note of May 8, acknowledging the German concession, Mr. Lansing—that is to say, really the President—gave a final admonition to the imperial German government in the following clear and unmistakable terms:

Accepting the imperial government's declaration of its abandonment of the policy which has so seriously menaced the good relations between the two countries, the Government of the United States will rely upon a scrupulous execution hereafter of the new altered policy of the imperial government, such as will remove the principal danger to an interruption of the good relations existing between the United States and Germany.

The Government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes it for granted that the Imperial German government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent upon the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the Government of the United States and any other belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain managers in the imperial government's note of the fourth instant might appear to be susceptible to that construction.

In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding the Government of the United States notifies the imperial government that it cannot for a moment entertain, much less discuss, a suggestion that respect for German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should in any way be in the slightest degree made contingent upon the conduct of any other government affecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants. Responsibility in such matters is absolute, not joint; absolute, not relative.

These declarations have peculiar significance in view of the manner in which Germany in her present overbearing communication attempts to place the blame for the renewal of lawlessness and inhumanity upon Great Britain and her allies. The Lansing note sweeps this absurd plea out of consideration with unanswerable logic at least in so far as American interests are at stake. The responsibility of the German government for its own acts and those of its maritime forces is defined beyond cavil and our total immunity from risk or obligation because of the acts of Germany's enemies is clearly established.

WHAT'S RADICALLY WRONG.

Under the heading "Something Radically Wrong" the Atlanta Constitution printed an editorial recently bewailing the fact that "during the year 1916 only 589 miles of new railroad were constructed in the entire South," and observing:

There is something fundamentally wrong in this. What it is we do not profess to know. Everybody is welcome to his own explanation; but everybody must agree that there is something basically at fault with conditions which make this record possible. And the whole country is interested to find the remedy, whatever it is, and apply it. When railroad expansion stops, everything, every industry, every people, feels the depressing effects.

If the Constitution does not know what the "something fundamentally wrong" is it must assuredly have never heard of the Adamson "eight hour law," so-called. To this piece of vote-catcher legislation of last summer all the railroads' disposition to avoid expansion in later years cannot be attributed, but it is symptomatic of the governmental tendency to increase the cost of railroad operation and at the same time restrict revenue. The American citizen with capital to invest is no more likely to put it into railroads with no prospect of adequate return than is the Southern cotton planter to invest all that he has in his cotton rows with the prospect of getting no more than 5 cents a pound for his crop.

The new thought luncheon invitation—"Miss Jones requests the honor of Miss Smith's presence for the consumption of 747 calories on Thursday, R. S. V. P."

In the report of the funeral of a New York newspaper man it is noted that, appropriately enough, "The prayer was by the Rev. Dr. Charles Herald."

Our interest in trust-busting usually becomes lukewarm and academic when the question of a signal combine arises.

Don Marquis' Column

Stamboul University has suggested the Kaiser as a candidate for the Nobel peace prize. The Kaiser should decorate every member of the faculty with the iron cross in appreciation of their appreciation.

Apology to Squib.

Today I am sick of the new school of poetry
Started, good Squib, by yourself and a bottle
Of dusty old Burgundy. . . There was a cobweb
Spun, all in good earnest, about the sealed stopper
Thence falling like lace down a fat woman's bosom—
And you, Squib, you said it was Bachchus in bondage.
And scolded the waiter for breaking such silver!

"Tis thus," you observed, "that we ruin God's patterns."
To get at sensations and tickle our palates,
Alas! Here's a misty sweet effort quite wasted—
Frail beauty destroyed by fat appetite's finger—
Fine Art flung away!" And you wept for the spider.

Then bright inspiration made sun on your countenance,
Drying the tear stains, and warming your fancy.
You smiled; you took paper and pen from your pockets—
Your cavernous pockets that bulge so with volumes
Of fetterless verse that the young And there send you—
And there in the corner of Domin's winery.

With fire on the hearth and white with at the windows,
(I helped; I confess it. I gave you five phrases)
You started your new school of poetry; launched it.
Like some gause-winged galleon,
Floating on vapors—
Tipped bottle, clinked glass, and, excessively christened it.

Scribbling pale verses and drinking . . . Till heaven
Was spread like a cloth on the table between us.
And Echo sat twanging our stringed conversation,
And stars were struck out of our infinite silence!

Well, that was yesterday's mood, to be settled for
Out of Now's purse. (I'm well paid with a headache!)
And you, Squib! But there, it was excellent Burgundy!
As for the verse—I remember we buried it.

For some rather hazy but exquisite reason, . . .
With improved sorrow and vague scraps of Latin—
(There's nothing like Latin to top off a funeral)—
And afterward went from the summer of drinking,
To winter's cold strept, with its noisy procession,
Of fact on four wheels, its confusion, its progress,
Its traffic, its bustle, its ultimate logic—
Its way of depositing life on a doorstep—
Its manner of seeing one home!

How we shuddered
And turned up our collars, and shrank from the chill of it.
Then, plunging forward, were lost in the commonplace—
Swallowed by crowds! I remember no further.

But somehow, today, I am not in the temper
To rhaphesize over the new school of poetry.
Started, good Squib, by yourself and a cobweb,
Urged on by your servant, and buried with Latin—
Accept my apology—Man's but a creature,
Blown by the whim of the moment, a victim
Of appetites, visions, and—shall we say—headaches.

I trust you are well, and at work on the essay,
Which X—so desired for the Businessman's Weekly.
DANA BURNET.

The Apocryphal Squad.
Scout 98,765, N. J. reports that Mr. Satin is a tailor of Hackensack, N. J. E. S. B. Scout 2,150 reports that Mr. Reasoner is an insurance agent in Zaneville, Ohio.

Scout 4,778 is hereby suspended for six months for sending in the statement that a Mr. Hunger runs a bakery in Brooklyn.

It was certainly nice of the Kaiser to allow us one ship a week to England. That is one ship a week more than has been coming here from Germany.

F. B. I. has evidently been going up against some sort of an examination. He sends us the following savage suggestions for a "State Board of Regents' Examination for Musicians":

"Name five (5) players. And why?"
"State in detail the difference between a hand organ and a cornet."

"And why?"
"Can a mouth organ be played by a one-legged Swede? And why?"

"If you played 'The Weeping of the Green' at a Jewish christening and saw a soup tureen hurled at your head, what would you do? And when?"

"Is the noise of dishwashing heard at Klumpff's Wagnerian treat? And why?"

"In the State of Massachusetts is soup sipping a solo or obligato? And how?"

"State definitely whether, in your opinion, slices of watermelon should or should not be classified as musical instruments. And why?"

What is this curse of Meroz the papers are talking about these days? We thought we knew all the registered swear words.

Is this Fletcher that is going to Mexico as Mr. Wilson's ambassador the same Fletcher that held the chewing record for so long?

DON MARQUIS.

Here and There In the News

Now and then it seems almost like old times up at the Capitol when the skeleton of sectionalism is dragged out of the closet and paraded up and down the House or Senate to enliven what is called debate. "We are going to reduce your representation in the South," shouted Mr. Tamm, chairman of Massachusetts; "Never, never," exclaimed Mr. Howard, of Georgia, "except over my dead body" or words to that effect. Mr. Howard shook his finger at Mr. Gardner and Mr. Gardner complained. Mr. Howard held up his hands with open palms to his gradually weakening antagonist and Mr. Gardner kissed his hand to the thoroughly aroused Georgian. And all this was done at an expense of several hundred dollars to the taxpayers of the country. It was the old issue of the colored person in politics and his disfranchisement in the South; Mr. Gardner appeared to be willing to sacrifice the colored man as a voter, if Mr. Howard would agree to a reduction of representation in Congress, and Mr. Howard would not agree.

How Gardner Could Gain.

Instead of baiting Mr. Howard with reflections upon the over-representation of the South in Congress, Mr. Gardner would find a more effective remedy for the condition of which he complains if he would provide some means of encouraging the removal of the colored people from the South. Under the present apportionment a State is entitled to one Representative in Congress for every 211,877 of population. There are about 1,500,000 colored people in Georgia. If the population could be induced to leave Georgia in a body and settle in Massachusetts, Georgia would lose seven Representatives and Massachusetts would gain seven. Probably Mr. Howard would be left at home, and, possibly, Massachusetts might be able to find another Congressman to match Mr. Gardner.

Improving the Statues.

For goodness' sake, if the Duponts wish to erect an artistic memorial to the most distinguished representative of their family in place of the cheap affair now standing for many years as the best a grateful nation could do for one of its heroes, why not let them do it and thank them for doing it? The Duponts have asked Congress for permission to do this and without expense to the Government—that is the first condition in the present state of the public finances, and the Duponts are ready to meet it. They ought to be encouraged and for the limitation of others. The old statue need not be thrown away, the Duponts, or the Congress, would be willing, doubtless, to give it to Senator Norris for the public park at McCook, Neb., but for heaven's sake, if the memorials to American heroes and martyrs at the National Capitol can be improved by private means let it be done with thankfulness.

Work For Representative Rankin.

It is the custom in some communities to speak of the wife of a deceased husband as his relic, and that's what she was called several thousands years ago; but, in her funeral notice at least, why not call her the widow of the deceased, better than to advertise her as the "relics." When Miss Jeanette Rankin takes her seat in the next Congress she ought to propose a constitutional amendment to prohibit this sort of thing.

Bishop Russell's First Duty.

One of the first duties Bishop Russell will have to discharge in his new diocese after his consecration in Baltimore next month will be the dedication of Father Wood's beautiful new church at Florence, S. C. Everybody down that way is saying fine things about the new bishop and await his coming with high satisfaction. If he could get away in time for the Seventeenth of March he would find himself in a sea of good fellowship.

A Gallon a Month.

Two hundred prohibitionists from twenty-eight counties in the State marched in solid phalanx upon the South Carolina legislature the other night to demand absolute prohibition for the State, and their demand will probably be granted. The gallon a month exemption has not worked to the satisfaction of either the temperance people or the prohibitionists. It was too much for the latter and not quite enough for the former. The present law has been enforced in spots and particularly in so-called "dry" locations when the main tipples have been water of a more or less intoxicating quality. For the first time in 180 years the last dinner of the 38th Legislature was celebrated with Andrew's Society was celebrated with the ancient tipples, and from the way they cut up about it all one would have thought they were really having a good time. A recent visitor from the State of Kansas, on his way to Washington, more than one occasion, "somewhere in France," as the saying goes, an eloquent speaker was observed taking frequent potations from a pitcher, and pitchers are almost exclusively employed for the conveyance of water.

Penrose to Debate With President.

Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, is a bold man, and when he feels like it, and is there, he can make himself very obnoxious to those who do not like him. At a dinner on McKinley day in Pittsburgh the other night he is reported to have said that the next time President Wilson appeared before the Senate to discuss public matters "I will engage him in colloquy and debate, in which I shall be strictly within my rights, as he is within his rights in coming there. Doubtless other Senators will join in the debate, although I shall not ask them to do so. The President will be addressed as was Washington more than one hundred years ago, and I think I can say that this second appearance of Mr. Wilson will be his last." The Senator said that this was what he expected to do if he should be present; but some of his constituents do not think he will be there unless he breaks his record for non-attendance. If he should carry out his announced purpose, however, no one would enjoy such a debate more than the President, and when it ended the Senator from Pennsylvania would know that there had been a fight.

THE COMMENTATOR.

TELLS OF SNAGS FACING DRAMA ART

Miss Griswold Says Amateur Stage's Great Lack Is Young Men.

Down in Washington Square, New York, where most of the big ideas for the little theater movement come from, dramatic art, with a big "A" has struck a snag, according to Miss Grace Griswold, who talked before the Arts Club last evening.

Miss Griswold, one of the organizers of the Washington Square Players, and now executive secretary of the Theater Workshop, an enterprise which not only seeks to encourage production of plays but to encourage young men and women to write them.

As for the snag—too many heroines, too few heroes.

Stage Lacks Young Men.
It's easy enough to get bright young women, many of them college graduates, to "go in" for amateur acting, and many of them do it with an eye to going on the professional stage. But young men find too many other things, engineering, efficiency expertness, scientific plumbing, and what not, calling them to heed the thespian lure.

Another thing that is wrong with the stage, is the fire laws, in Miss Griswold's opinion. These laws, she said, have banned from the theater scenery building, scenery storing, and all the things that used to make the back stage a club house. Now actors go to the theater to go through their parts, and come away. Hence atmosphere has disappeared which she believes was especially helpful to cub heroes and heroines.

Drawbacks to Uplift.

Efforts to "uplift" the stage, including the little theater movement, Miss Griswold thinks, have suffered from lack of organization. Even the New Theater, in New York, now the Century, she stated, was launched before the play program had been organized, and before the production arrangements had been organized.

"As for the little theaters and many of the amateur organizations," she said, "they suffer from too much strain on scenery and too little on acting. Interpretation must be the first point of attention in successful production."

A Death of Good Plays.

Another handicap, she said, which led to the organization of a play-finding department at her theater workshop, of which George Arliss, Holbrook Blinn, Clayton Hamilton and Walter Pritchard Eaton are advisers, is the dearth of good new plays.

She said that the war in Europe was foreshadowed years ahead by the grimaces of the plays turned out in every European country.

Miss Griswold came here under the auspices of the Drama League, of Washington, which is launching a movement to build a little theater in this city.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Many interesting events of importance are scheduled.

Today.
Address, "The Relations of Psychology to Philosophy," by James S. Leonard, before Society for Philosophical Inquiry, Public Library, 4:45 p. m.
Medical and literary society, Pennsylvania Society of Washington, Perpetual Building, 1101 K Street northwest, 8 p. m.
Address, Judge G. W. Wilbur, University Club, 8 p. m.
Meeting, Washington Alumni Chapter of the Every Old University, chapter house, 1739 T Street northwest, 8 p. m.
Reception, National House products, Hotel Lafayette, all day.
Meeting, Federal Schoolmen's Club, Hotel Continental, 7 p. m.; with dinner at 7:30 p. m.
Meeting, Maine State Association, W. C. T. U. rooms, 225 Sixth Street northwest, 8 p. m.
Reception to Maryland Chapter, Sons of Columbus, at home of Mrs. F. R. Moran, 2112 Massachusetts Avenue northwest, 4 p. m.
Lecture, "The Greatest Vocation," Mrs. Annie Riley Hale, Foundry M. B. Church, Sixteenth and Church Streets northwest, 4 p. m.
Bridge tea, District of Columbia Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, at home of Mrs. Frederick L. Huidobro, at 1645 Eighteenth Street northwest, 2:30 p. m.
Luncheon, women of Wilbur Hospital Guild, old Masonic Temple, Ninth and F Streets northwest, 12 to 2 p. m.
Banquet, University of College of Law, Banquet, 2:30 p. m.
Dinner, Tan Beta Pi Fraternity, only room, New Building, 4 p. m.
Dinner, Dental Surgeons' Association, gold room, 7:30 p. m.
Lecture, "The American Indian in Art," Edwin W. Deming, before the Art and Archaeology League, at Corcoran Gallery of Art, 2:45 p. m.
Entertainment, matrons and patrons of 1917, Order of Eastern Star, at home of Mrs. B. H. Moore, 1917, Masonic Hall, Eighth and F Streets northwest, 8 p. m.
Address, Rhine Island Suffrage League, 1638 Rhode Island Avenue northwest, 4 to 6 p. m.
Extension lecture, "Descriptions of France and the French Line," American University, 2 p. m.
National Conference of Americanization, National Conference of Americanization, New Willard, 9 a. m. and 2 p. m.
Dinner, Phi Delta Sigma Society, Raleigh, 7 p. m.
Old Fellows—Canton Washington, No. 1, Patriarche Millant.

Amusements.

New National-Léo Dirlretein, in "The Great Lover," 2:30 and 8:15 p. m.
The "Flame," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
The "Pretty Baby," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
The "Keith's" Valley, 8:15 p. m.
Lacey-Burlesque, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.
The Columbia-Photoplays, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Strand-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.
Garden-Photoplays, 11 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Tomorrow.

Free lecture on Christian Science, William R. Rathbone, C. S. B., Post Theater 3 p. m.
Concert, U. S. Soldiers' Home Band, Orchestra, Stanley Hall, 6:30 p. m.
Celebration of passage of suffrage bill, in North Dakota, National American Suffrage Association, 1638 Rhode Island Avenue northwest, 4:30 p. m.
Lecture, "The City of God is Here," Mrs. Ellen V. Beecher, of New York, before Bahai Assembly, Studio Hall, 1235 Connecticut Avenue northwest, 8:15 p. m.
Meeting, Young Frolics' Club, Fairmont Restaurant, 2:30 p. m.
Meeting, Woman Wage Earners' Association, Columbia Academy, 704 T Street northwest, 8 p. m.
Lecture, "The Vatican and the War," Moses Barthe, before Washington Secular League, Pichman Temple, 5 p. m.
Meeting, trades unionists who favor the Prohibition Bill, Typographical Union, 2:30 p. m.
Meeting, Washington branch of the Anti-War League, North Carolina Avenue M. F. Church, 7:15 p. m.
Lecture, "Man and His Bodies," Dr. W. W. Baker, at the Theosophical Hall, 1215 H Street northwest, 8 p. m.

BORLAND SYSTEM DEFENDED BY KUTZ

Miss Griswold Says Amateur Engineer Commissioner Addresses Cathedral Heights Citizens' Association.

The Borland amendment, which assesses half the cost of street improvements on abutting property owners, and which has been denounced by practically every citizens' association in the city, was defended by Engineer Commissioner Charles W. Kutz, addressing the Cathedral Heights Citizens' Association in Mt. St. Alban's parish hall last night.

"I think it would be better," said Colonel Kutz, "for the citizens of Washington to seek to have some of the objectionable features of the Borland system modified instead of fighting the law. I am not in favor of increasing taxation in the District, but I cannot help seeing the advantages of the Borland plan."

Suggests Two Changes.

The Commissioner said that in his opinion there were two phases of the law, however, which should be changed, namely, that the property owner should only be required to pay half the cost of thirty feet of the street instead of forty feet, and, secondly, that in repaving, he should only be taxed one-fourth the cost.

"I was talking to Mr. Borland about these two features of his bill," said the Commissioner, "and he seemed favorably impressed with the reasonableness of making these changes."

Many Cities Follow Plan.

In explaining why he was coming out in defense of the Borland amendment after citizens of the city had denounced it almost unanimously, Colonel Kutz said:

"The Commissioners made inquiry of leading cities of the country and found that the Borland plan is not 'un-American,' as it has been called, but distinctly an American idea. It is followed in comparatively few European countries."

Prevents Needless Improvements.

The Commissioner declared that one of the best results from the Borland law was that it kept property owners from asking for unnecessary improvements.

"Before the days of the Borland law," said Colonel Kutz, "the Commissioners were flooded with requests for street improvements, many of which were entirely without merit." The views of the Commissioner on the Borland bill came rather as a surprise to the citizens, who have heard it denounced as "unjust," "un-American" and "un-American" since its passage.

Sees Great Possibilities.

Commissioner Kutz told the citizens that he saw great possibilities for the development of their section through the widening of Wisconsin Avenue into one of the principal thoroughfares of the District.

In answer to a complaint against the service on the Wisconsin Avenue car line, Colonel Kutz stated that the corporation counsel has instructed the Commissioner that the question of car service involves the rate question and that the rate question cannot be touched upon until the physical valuations of the companies are completed.

No business was transacted following the Commissioner's address.

PERCY GRAINGER PLEASES

Pianist Heard in Recital With Julia Heinrich at National.

Percy Grainger is an unique figure in the music world, and it is as exponent of his own compositions that his marked individuality is manifest. At the seventh concert of the Ten Star series at the National Theater yesterday afternoon Percy Grainger, pianist, and Julia Heinrich, soprano, were heard in joint recital before a large audience.

It is the folk spirit that seems to dominate Percy Grainger as composer, while as player he seems also at his happiest in developing, through a mass of folk songs and very personal harmonies, these "national" folk tunes. He plays them almost like free and whimsical improvisations, with surprising and very charming modulations.

In contrast he gave the English Morris dance, "Shepherd's Hey," with its jollity, its several moods and as many voices, then the "Irish Tune from County Derry," a simply announced hymn that he developed broadly. The fairy tale of the "Leprechaun's Dance" was full of his quaint vagaries in style and it was played with great delicacy and charm, while the "Magazine's 'Kick,'" with its real Irish swing was brilliant technique and was given with sparkling execution and descriptive tone